GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:478
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
SALE OF BANNED MEDICINES
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicines containing phenylpropanolamine (PPA) have been banned in Western Countries more than four years ago but they are still being sold in India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that some medicines, like Vicks Action 500, are sold in India with PPA while their similar products in Britain are sold without PPA; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): The PPA (Phenylpropanolamine) has been used in cough & cold preparations in many countries. The PPA containing products were withdrawn in USA in November 2000, where these were marketed in higher strengths for weight loss in addition to its use in cough & cold preparations. The Committee on Safety of Medicines in UK also examined the matter of safety of PPA and concluded that the evidence of link between Hemorrhagic Stroke and PPA is weak and the formulations for cough and cold in low doses may continue to be sold in UK.

(c): The matter was also simultaneously examined in India in 2000-2001 in consultation with the Experts and it was felt that in view of the similarity of use of PFA formulations in India to that of UK, the drug should be permitted to be marketed in cough & cold preparation with daily dose not more than 50mg for children and 100mg for adults.